

add bronchio-alveolar carcinoma to the list of diseases which the VA presumes to be service connected. This bill is identical to legislation I offered last year (H.R. 4156).

Bronchio-alveolar carcinoma is a rare form of nonsmokers' lung cancer which strikes otherwise healthy individuals for no known reason. In 1981, it took the life of Thomas McCarthy, a veteran who was a navigator aboard the U.S.S. *McKinley* during his time in the U.S. Navy in the 1950's.

In 1955, the *McKinley* was one of several ships to take part in Operation Wigwam, a secret Navy experiment which tested the effects of an atomic detonation under the ocean floor. The blast produced a mist which enveloped the ships on mission and their crewmen. The Navy refused to even acknowledge the test until 1979, and they still refuse to make public the dangers that the mist produced.

After Mr. McCarthy's death, his widow Joan applied for benefits through the VA. Unfortunately, she was consistently turned down despite the plethora of information she continued to unearth which confirmed that her husband's death was a direct result of his service connection.

I became involved with Mrs. McCarthy's case in 1986 and have been trying to persuade the VA to administratively include bronchio-alveolar carcinoma on the presumed service-connected list. Unfortunately, these requests have been rebuffed. I have been told that the only way to get this done is through legislation.

Last year, VA Secretary Jesse Brown promised me that the Department will support my efforts to pass this legislation. With Secretary Brown's help and as vice chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, I will be working with my colleagues on the committee to ensure that the bill is brought up quickly and passed.

We have held hearings on this matter. I have met personally with Secretary Brown to urge action. The time for talking and debating is over. It is clear that this matter needs to be resolved and the time for action is now.

Joan McCarthy, and the few other veterans who suffer from this mysterious cancer and their families, deserve justice. I urge all my colleagues to strongly support this measure.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, Americans will be celebrating the national holiday which honors one of our great patriots and moral leaders, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reverend King was taken from us prematurely over a quarter century ago, at far too young an age, in one of the most heartless, senseless, and destructive crimes in our national history. It is difficult for us to recognize that if his life had not been so tragically snuffed out, Dr. King would be only 66 years old on his birthday this month.

Although the life of Martin Luther King was cut short, his message is eternal and will long outlive all of us here today. The simple truth that Dr. King worked so hard to make us all

recognize is that hatred actually harms the hater more than the hated. The evils of racial injustice, which were a blot on the record of our Nation for far too long, harmed the economy, the morals, and the advancement of white America just as much as it did Black America. The terrible legacy of Jim Crowism and continued racial discrimination which plagued us for well after a 100 years of the Emancipation Proclamation harmed us all, for they not only prevented all Americans from enjoying the full benefits of our society, they also prevented us all from reaping the benefits of the contributions all Americans are capable of making.

By no means should the celebration of Martin Luther King Day be taken as a celebration that we have achieved all we can. In fact, the legacy of racial division and hatred continues to plague us today, in many ways, day after day. No American can truly be satisfied until after all of the barriers of prejudice in our society are removed.

Yet, we can be inspired by the words of Dr. King, who stated: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means, keep on moving."

Martin Luther King Day is an appropriate time for all Americans to remember that we must continue to move, until the day when all of us are afforded full opportunity, and that none of us have to be concerned that race, color, creed, or ethnic heritage are a hindrance to any individual, or to our Nation as a whole.

Let us free ourselves from hatred, as Dr. King urged, so that we can share the dream he so eloquently shared with all in August of 1963—a dream that some day the descendants of slaves and the descendants of slave holders can sit down and join hands together at the table of brotherhood and proclaim: "Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, we're free at last."

#### INTRODUCTION OF OVERSIGHT LEGISLATION ON PENSION PLAN TERMINATION INSURANCE

**HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, as we continue this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 [ERISA], I want to bring attention to the termination insurance program administered by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation [PBGC]. The PBGC was created in 1974 under ERISA Title IV in order to guarantee the private pension benefits of employees and retirees in the event their company goes bankrupt and leaves their pension plans less than fully funded.

Even though the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] legislation enacted last year included significant reforms of the PBGC termination insurance program, I believe it is essential that we closely monitor how these changes affect defined benefit pension plans and the goals set forth under ERISA for the PBGC. It might also be noted that the changes to PBGC included in GATT only affected the single-employer plan programs and not the multiemployer program.

Over the last few years, a number of reform proposals have been introduced, including recommendations from the Bush administration, the Clinton administration, some of which were enacted in GATT, and others introduced by former-Representative Jake Pickle. With the passage of PBGC reform in GATT, my Subcommittee on Employee-Employer Relations and the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities will take a strong interest in closely monitoring the PBGC program. To aid the committee in its oversight of the PBGC termination insurance program, we are today reintroducing past proposals which address both the single-employer and multiemployer defined benefit pension programs. We want to look at these ongoing termination insurance programs in light of these suggestions, the actual changes included in GATT, as well as other suggestions that we are now asking interested parties to bring to the committee's attention.

While our introduction today of past proposals, and the introduction in the future of the other proposals that come to our attention, does not constitute endorsement of any particular approach, we think that the various provisions contained in such proposals can serve as a valuable tool to assess the progress and effectiveness of the termination insurance programs administered by the PBGC.

The role of defined benefit pension plans and the operation of the title IV termination insurance programs administered by the PBGC constitute important elements of the retirement income security component of our Nation's private pension system. Given our committee's historic jurisdiction over employee benefits under ERISA, I think it imperative that we pay close attention to the status of the programs administered by the PBGC and take a long-term view as to how those features of the current law and other proposals will help ensure the long-term soundness of the defined benefit pension system.

The Subcommittee on Employee-Employer Relations of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities also welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the oversight of other aspects of the ERISA pension, health, and other employee benefit programs under its purview.

THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM  
REFORM ACT OF 1995

**HON. JOEL HEFLEY**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce the National Park Reform Act of 1995. Except for three small changes, this bill is identical to H.R. 4476, which passed the House by a vote of 421 to 0 last year.

Over the past few months, my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN], has generated a great deal of comment in the West by suggesting that some of the Nation's 368 national parks are not worthy of being in the Park System and that, perhaps, we should look at unloading some of them. His suggestion has not been entirely well received and he is now being charged with trying to destroy the Park System. But, to play the devil's advocate, hasn't he got a point?